

REMARKS

Claims 1-50 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1, 8, 11, 21, 32, 37, 40 and 41 have been amended. Claims 25-31 have been withdrawn without prejudice to further prosecution.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claims 8, 40 and 41 have been amended to correct the deficiency cited by the Examiner and the rejection is believed overcome thereby.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The examiner rejected claims 1-5, 8, 11-18, 20, 25-32, 38-40, 43-46 and 48 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Ahmad US Patent No. 5, 925, 127 in view of B. Schneier (Applied Cryptography). The rejection is respectively traversed.

The remaining claims, as amended, describe a gaming machine with a master gaming controller that is operable to receive inputs of money or indicia of credit, receive wagers on a game of chance using the money or indicia of credit, determine an outcome for the game of chance and display the outcome for the game of chance. In many instances, gaming machines may be operable to determine game outcome that can result in awards of millions of dollars and may take in large amounts of money during operations.

Given the large amounts of money involved, hardware and software designs in gaming machines are quite different from PCs that may be used to play games. For example, a gaming machines are typically locked inside secure and monitored cabinets to prevent theft and tampering like ATM cash machines. Further, gaming machines are designed as states machines, such that the current state of the gaming machine can always be recovered after a malfunction such as a hardware failure or a power loss. The state of a gaming machine is preserved by storing critical data, such as credits on the gaming machine, to non-volatile memory, as it is generated. In addition, in traditional gaming machines, gaming software used by the master gaming controller on the gaming machine has been stored on EPROMs to prevent tampering. Further, traditional gaming machines have only been connected to "private" networks as a security measure to prevent potential tampering with the gaming software.

In the present invention, methods and hardware are described that allow a gaming machine that is capable of generating outcomes for wager-based games chance to communicate with a remote server in a secure manner and to use resources of the remote server, such as transferring critical data related to generation of game of chance to a remote server as is described in claim 1, obtain license data for a game of chance as is described in claim 11 and

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using the remote server to generate reports based on data received from the gaming machine as is described with respect to claims 21. These methods and hardware may be advantageous in environments where gaming machines are remotely distributed, such as in stores or restaurants, where it may not be feasible to install a "private" network.

The combination of Ahmad and Schneier can't be said to teach or suggest the present invention because it does not describe any limitations related to wagering on games of chance on a gaming machine as are recited in the remaining claims because wagering on games of chance, methods and associated hardware are not described in these references. Therefore, the combination of Ahmad and Schneier can't be said to render obvious claims 1-5, 8, 11-18, 20, 32, 38-40, 43-46 and 48 and the rejection is believed overcome thereby.

The examiner rejected claims 21-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Ahmad US Patent No. 5, 925, 127 in view of B. Schneier (Applied Cryptography) and in further view of Peterson (6, 052, 512). The rejection is respectively traversed.

The combination of Ahmad, Schneier and Peterson can't be said to teach or suggest the present invention because it does not describe any limitations related to wagering on games of chance on a gaming machine as are recited in the remaining claims because wagering on games of chance, methods and associated hardware are not described in these references. Therefore, the combination of Ahmad, Schneier and Peterson can't be said to render obvious claims 21-24 and the rejection is believed overcome thereby.

The examiner rejected claims 6-7, 38, 41-42 and 47 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Ahmad US Patent No. 5, 925, 127 in view of B. Schneier (Applied Cryptography) and in further view of Peterson (6, 052, 512). The rejection is respectively traversed.

The combination of Ahmad, Schneier and Peterson can't be said to teach or suggest the present invention because it does not describe any limitations related to wagering on games of chance on a gaming machine as are recited in the remaining claims because wagering on games of chance, methods and associated hardware are not described in these references. Therefore, the combination of Ahmad, Schneier and Peterson can't be said to render obvious claims 6-7, 38, 41-42 and 47 and the rejection is believed overcome thereby.

The examiner rejected claims 9-10 and 49-50 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Ahmad US Patent No. 5, 925, 127 in view of B. Schneier (Applied Cryptography) and in further view of Boesch (6, 125, 185). The rejection is respectively traversed.

The combination of Ahmad, Schneier and Boesch can't be said to teach or suggest the present invention because it does not describe any limitations related to wagering on games of chance on a gaming machine as are recited in the remaining claims because wagering on games of chance, methods and associated hardware are not described in these references. Therefore, the

combination of Ahmad, Schneier and Boesch can't be said to render obvious claims 9-10 and 49-50 and the rejection is believed overcome thereby.

The examiner rejected claims 19, 33-35 and 37 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Ahmad US Patent No. 5, 925, 127 in view of B. Schneier (Applied Cryptography) and in further view of La Due (5, 999, 808). The rejection is respectively traversed.

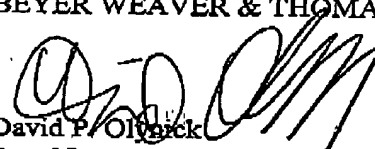
The combination of Ahmad, Schneier can't be said to teach or suggest the present invention because it does not describe any limitations related to wagering on games of chance on a gaming machine as are recited in the remaining claims because wagering on games of chance, methods and associated hardware are not described in these references. LaDue describes wagering type gaming machines. However, LaDue does not teach or suggest the limitations related to the master gaming controller in the present invention nor does LaDue describe any motivation for making the modifications suggested by the limitations of the present invention. Therefore, the combination of Ahmad, Schneier and LaDue can't be said to render obvious claims 19, 33-35 and 37 and the rejection is believed overcome thereby.

The examiner rejected claims 36 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Ahmad US Patent No. 5, 925, 127 in view of B. Schneier (Applied Cryptography) and in further view of Colosso (6, 169, 976). The rejection is respectively traversed.

The combination of Ahmad, Schneier and Colosso can't be said to teach or suggest the present invention because it does not describe any limitations related to wagering on games of chance on a gaming machine as are recited in the remaining claims because wagering on games of chance, methods and associated hardware are not described in these references. Therefore, the combination of Ahmad, Schneier and Colosso can't be said to render obvious claim 36 the rejection is believed overcome thereby.

Applicant believes that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

Respectfully submitted,
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